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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP  
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

98164

COUNTRY Colombia

DATE: 25X1A

SUBJECT Background of the Anti-Duran Movement in the  
Partido Socialista DemocraticoORIGIN  
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letter of October 1973 from the  
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PAGES 2

SUPPLEMENT

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In connection with the split in the Partido Socialista Democratico (the Communist party in Colombia) which occurred during the Fifth Congress at Bucaramanga, as reported in [REDACTED] the following background information has recently been reported [REDACTED]. This report represents opinions expressed by Alvaro San Clemente early in July at a meeting of followers of Gilberto Vieira White. San Clemente is a former member of the National Committee of the PSD who has not been active in the Party leadership since December 1946, but who expected to resume an active role as a result of the Congress at Bucaramanga.

25X1A

1. San Clemente charged that Augusto Duran, the Secretary General of the PSD until the Congress at Bucaramanga, had founded within the Party a personal political machine and surrounded himself with persons faithful to his own policies - policies which carried the Party to disaster during the elections of 16 March 1947, when all elective representation of the Party was lost. This machine had enabled Duran to issue resolutions signed by the National Committee, but which in reality had been subscribed to only by Duran himself.
2. San Clemente further charged that Duran had exacted an agreement from his faithful followers to keep a constant vigil over Vieira, in order to discover any personal or political relations of his which might discredit him at the Party Congress. Duran went to the extreme of revealing that Maruja Vieira, sister of Gilberto, is a highly-placed and confidential employee of one of the American petroleum companies.
3. The policy of Duran is completely misguided and contrary to the principles of Marx, Lenin, and Stalin, according to San Clemente. Duran's policy has converted the Communist Party of Colombia into an appendage of the Liberal Party. His praise of Alfonso Lopez and his government threw the proletarian masses into a state of confusion and caused the disaster of the 16 March elections. At the time of the elections for a President in May 1946, Duran had endorsed the candidacy of Gabriel Turbay, a representative of "American Capitalism in Colombia," thereby causing Party members to disobey the orders of the National Committee and vote for Jorge Eliecer Gaitan. As a result of Duran's distortion of Marxist principles many Party members became converted followers of the Gaitanistas. Later, Duran approved a policy of collaboration with the present government under Ospina Perez and thereby identified the Party with the Conservatives and Catholic reactionaries.

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4. In international politics, Duran has continued to defend the principles of Earl Browder, despite the latter's disgrace with the Communist Party in the United States. San Clemente charged that Duran had received more than \$5,000 in travelers checks from Earl Browder on a visit to the United States about six years ago, and of this sum turned over only 1,000 Colombian pesos to the Party treasury, appropriating the remainder for his own personal use.
5. San Clemente identified as faithful followers of Duran the following: Emiliano Vargas, Manuel F. Ortiz, William Bustillos, Romas Herazo Rios, Jesus Villegas, Jose A. Marquez, and Jorge E. Bayona. Bayona, however, is not to be trusted because of his wavering allegiance.

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